



## ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

### Coroner Division

#### Quarter 2 Comparison Report

Report time frame: April - June 2022

(comparing to: April - June 2021)

Total cases

**740**

(-1% from 748 in 2021)

Q2 Total include 9 cases pending and 8 cases undetermined

Accident

**383**

(+5%)

Homicide

**22**

(-8%)

Suicide

**94**

(-6%)

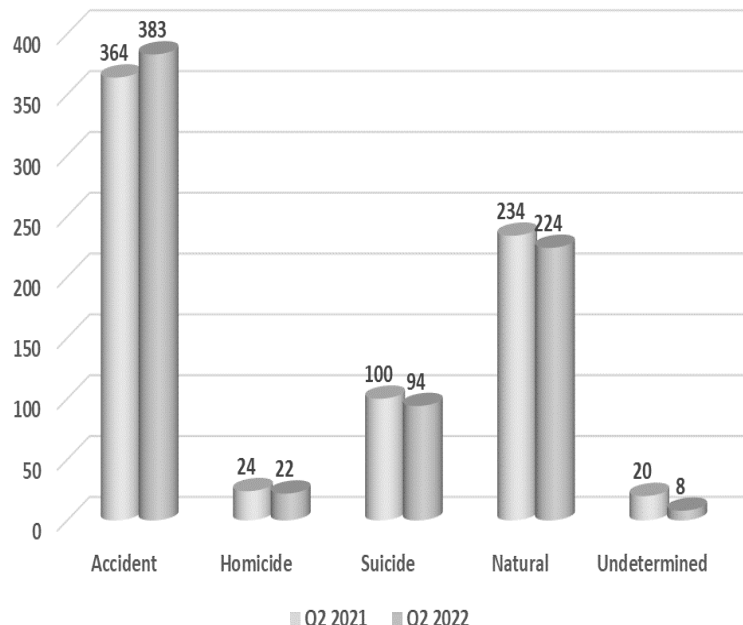
Natural

**224**

(-4%)

## MANNER OF DEATH

Comparing Quarter 2 of 2021 to 2022, accidental deaths have increased by 5%, homicides decreased by 8%, natural deaths falling under the jurisdiction of the Coroner decreased by 4% and suicides decreased by 6%.



### Accidents

Unintentional prescription and illicit drug related deaths decreased in 2022 to 56% of all accidental deaths when compared to the same time frame (63%) in 2021. Falls accounted for 17% while traffic related deaths were at 16%.



Unplanned deaths due to illicit or prescription drugs and/or ethanol toxicity increased by 1% in the second quarter of 2022 compared to the same time period in 2021 (224 to 222).

Methamphetamine appeared in 57% of all overdoses cases which was a 10% increase compared to the second quarter of 2021.

Fentanyl related deaths showed a 0.5% decrease (178 to 177).



Falls increased 21% in 2022 compared to 2021, (53 to 64), which makes them the second highest of all accidental death cases. Same level falls were most prevalent at 69% of all falls in 2022 and up from 57% in 2021.

Vehicular traffic related deaths increased by 25% in comparison to 2021, (55 to 69), with Auto vs. Auto decreasing by 17% (18 to 15).

Pedestrian deaths accounted for 32% of all vehicular deaths in Quarter 2 of 2022 while in 2021 they were at 25%.

Motorcycle related deaths saw a 25% increase (8 to 10).



### Homicides

**8%**

**DECREASE**

A firearm was used in 59% of the cases.

### Suicides

In Quarter 2 of 2022 there was an 6% decrease in suicides compared to Quarter 2 of 2021.

During this time frame, gunshot was the leading method at 34% followed by asphyxia at 27%.

The work of the Coroner Division is largely based on Government Code § 27491, which states that all unnatural deaths including homicides, suicides, accidents, and deaths in custody are under the coroner/medical examiner's jurisdiction to investigate. Also falling under our jurisdiction are infectious diseases reaching epidemic proportions, deaths in state or local institutions, and deaths believed to be natural but that occurred suddenly and unexpectedly where the decedent had not seen their health care provider in the last 20 days of life. Note: All deaths that fall under § 27491 are also subject to whether the facts indicate the death occurred under natural circumstances and the physician of record has sufficient knowledge to reasonably state the cause of death occurred under natural circumstance. Therefore, not every death that falls under one of these categories will be investigated by the Coroner's office. See Govt Code § 27491.

\*Due to some cases still under investigation within the quarter, manner of death counts and associated insights may adjust slightly as those cases are closed